

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A section of a tubular foodstuff casing closed at one end with a flat transverse seam, wherein the seam is a jointing seam.
2. (currently amended) The section as claimed in claim 1, wherein the jointing seam ~~[[is]]~~ comprises a sealed seam, welded seam, or adhesive seam.
3. (currently amended) The section as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the foodstuff casing ~~is composed of~~ comprises a heat-sealable or weldable polymer material.
4. (currently amended) The section as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foodstuff casing has a heat-sealable layer or a heat-sealable coating on ~~[[the]]~~ an inner side thereof.
5. (currently amended) The section as claimed in claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the foodstuff casing has been biaxially oriented, and if appropriate also heat-set.
6. (currently amended) The section as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4~~ 2, wherein, parallel to the sealed seam, welded seam, or adhesive seam, there is a sewn seam.
7. (currently amended) The section as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 6, wherein the sewn seam has been applied on a separate strip of material located on or immediately adjacent to the sealed seam, welded seam or adhesive seam.
8. (original) The section as claimed in claim 6, wherein the sewn seam has been imitated via an embossment on or adjacent to the sealed seam, welded seam or adhesive seam.
9. (currently amended) The section as claimed in claim ~~[[5]]~~ 6, wherein the sewn seam has been imitated via a print applied to or adjacent to the sealed seam, welded seam or adhesive seam.
10. (currently amended) The section as claimed in ~~one or more of claim[[s]] 1 to 8~~, which has been pre-smoked.

11. (currently amended) The section as claimed in ~~one or more of claim[[s]] 1 to 9~~, which has been shirred to give a short stick.

12. (currently amended) The section as claimed in ~~one or more of claim[[s]] 1 to 9~~, which, ~~after the application of the sealed seam, welded seam, adhesive seam, sewn seam, embossed seam, or printed seam~~, is not separated from the other identical sections and has been wound up on a roll.

Please add the following New claims:

13. (new) A section of a tubular foodstuff casing closed at one end with an end with a flat transverse seam, wherein the casing comprises a heat-sealable polymer material, or has a layer or a coating thereof on an inner side thereof, or wherein the casing comprises (i) uncoated or coated textile material, (ii) knitted material and/or, (iii) nonwoven, or non-fiber-reinforced or fiber-reinforced cellulose, where said flat transverse seam comprises a jointing seam comprising a sealed seam and/or a adhesive seam.

14. (new) The section as claimed in claim 13, wherein the foodstuff casing has been biaxially oriented, and, if appropriate, also heat-set.

15. (new) The section as claimed in claim 13, wherein the foodstuff casing comprises a water-vapor- and/or an oxygen-barrier layer.

16. (new) The section as claimed in claim 13, wherein, parallel to the sealed seam or adhesive seam, there is a sewn seam.

17. (new) The section as claimed in claim 16, wherein the sewn seam has been applied on a separate strip of material located on or immediately adjacent to the sealed seam or adhesive seam.

18. (new) The section as claimed in claim 16, wherein the sewn seam has been imitated via an embossment on or adjacent to the sealed seam or adhesive seam.

19. (new) The section as claimed in claim 16, wherein the sewn seam has been imitated via a print applied to or adjacent to the sealed seam or adhesive seam.
20. (new) The section as claimed in claim 13, which has been pre-smoked.
21. (new) The section as claimed in claim 13, which has been shirred to give a short stick.
22. (new) The section as claimed in claim 13, which, has not been separated from other identical sections and has been wound up on a roll.